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STAR OF MYSORE

OUR EVENING DAILY

Vol. 49 No. 6 Pages: 16 Rs. 3.00
Ph: 2496520 / 21 / 22 / 23
E-mail: voice@starofmysore.com
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MYSURU Saturday 21st February 2026
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Illegal flexes: Ex-MP seeks action against all political parties

Prathap Simha submits memorandum to MCC Commissioner Shaikh Tanveer Asif

Mysuru, Feb. 21 (MTY&BCT)- Former Mysuru-Kodagu MP Prathap Simha has urged the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) to immediately remove unauthorised flex boards and advertisement banners put up across the city, particularly those pasted over signboards, name boards and signages.

Simha met MCC Commissioner Shaikh Tanveer Asif at his office on New Sayyaji Rao Road this morning and submitted a memorandum along with photographic evidence, showing flex, banners completely covering city information and guide signboards.

Simha warned that if the MCC fails to clear such illegal installations and prevent their recurrence, he would be compelled to initiate legal action against the Civic Body.

The former MP said, several signboards meant to provide directions, traffic updates and essential civic information have been defaced by flex boards. These unauthorised banners, reduce visibility, create confusion among motorists and pedestrians and pose a risk to public safety.

(See ILLEGAL FLEXES on page 9)

To Our Readers

Turn to Page-8 for Vikram Muthanna's 'In Black & White' column titled **"MCC... flex your authority else... Mysuru City will turn into Flex City."** —Ed

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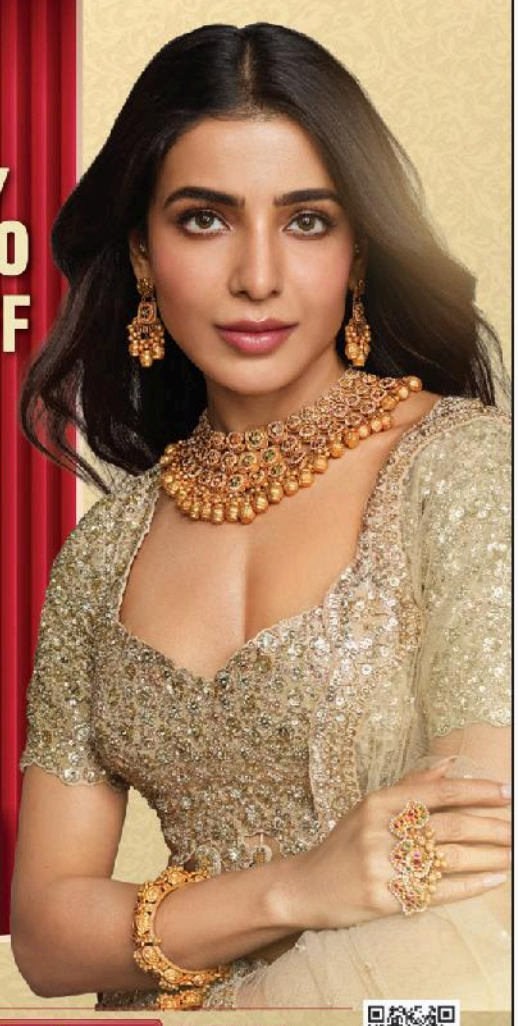
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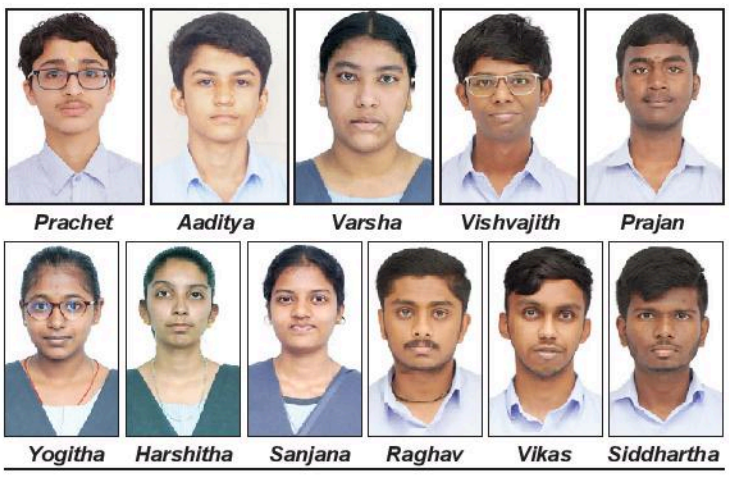
STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Saturday 21st February 2026

BGS PU College students excel in 2026 JEE-Mains Exam



Prachet *Aaditya* *Varsha* *Vishvajith* *Prajan*

Yogitha *Harshitha* *Sanjana* *Raghav* *Vikas* *Siddhartha*

Mysuru, Feb. 21- Students of BGS PU College, Sri Adichunchanagiri Shikshana Trust, Kuvempunagar, Mysuru, excelled in JEE-Mains Session-1 Examination by scoring good percentile of marks and have been qualified for JEE (Advance) to be held shortly.

Trust Secretary Sri Someshwaranatha Swamiji, Administrative Officer Dr. R.S. Narasegowda, Academic Coordinator R. Ranganath Babu, Principal and Staff greeted the students for their outstanding achievement.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

DAM SAFETY-TIME FOR A NATIONWIDE AUDIT: ***When Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah recently raised the alarm on dam safety, he was not just flagging an engineering concern. He was reframing the issue as one of national security, federal responsibility and public trust. Speaking at the International Conference on Dam Safety (ICDS) in Bengaluru, the Chief Minister placed ageing dams at the centre of India's infrastructure risk debate. The numbers justify the concern. According to a UN report, India has over 6,600 specified dams, making it the world's third-largest dam-owning nation. Of these, about 1,100 are already over 50 years old and more than 220 have crossed the 100-year mark. By 2050, nearly 80% of India's large dams will be past their intended design life. Karnataka alone has 231 specified dams. Nearly 70% of them are over 25 years old, while over 40 major structures are already past the 50-year threshold. Icons such as Vani Vilasa Sagar (119 years), Krishna Raja Sagar (95 years) and Tungabhadra (73 years) underline both the State's engineering legacy and its present vulnerability.***

The dams face four interlinked dangers. First, structural fatigue and ageing of mechanical systems such as gates and hoists, many of which were designed for a 50-year life. This risk was starkly illustrated in 2024 at the Tungabhadra Dam, where a crest gate was washed away after a chain link snapped. Second, reservoir sedimentation has robbed older dams of significant storage capacity, reducing their ability to manage floods or droughts. Third, climate variability, where extreme rainfall routinely exceeds the assumptions under which these dams were originally designed. Fourth, a more contemporary risk of cybersecurity, where as dams adopt digital controls and automated gates, they become potential targets for technological sabotage...

Systematic monitoring, scheduled modernisation, climate-resilient redesign and credible emergency action plans for downstream communities should be non-negotiable. This must begin with a nationwide audit of all specified dams without waiting for a catastrophe. This necessitates that the Centre and States act as partners, moving beyond jurisdiction-based friction to embrace a model of cooperative federalism where safety standards are unified across river basins. Dams were once called the temples of modern India. As they age, maintaining them safely is no longer just about irrigation or power, but also about safeguarding lives and livelihoods.—*In Deccan Herald*

NEWS SPARKLERS

Rs. 40,000 rent for 16 sq. ft. house

Hong Kong: In a city famed for its glittering skyline and eye-watering property prices, thousands live in spaces so small they cannot stand upright, stretch their arms, or even turn without twisting their bodies. In one of the richest cities on Earth, people are living inside boxes. These are the world's smallest apartments. They measure only 16 square feet and are known as 'coffin homes.'

Coffin homes, also known as bedspace apartments, can be as small as 16 square feet. Some measure under 30 square feet, which places them outside newer regulatory frameworks.

Rent for Hong Kong's 16-square-foot coffin homes typically ranges from $230 to $450 (Rs. 20,858 to Rs. 45,353) per month.

Jobless man goes to jail to survive

Ufa: A young man with no means of supporting himself, went to extreme lengths to make sure he had a roof over his head and at least one meal per day. Referred to only as Oleg, the 20-something man from the Republic of Bashkortostan, successfully got himself arrested and sent to prison for making bomb threats.

After spending three days trying to find a job in Ufa, Oleg went to a hotel and threatened the staff that he was going to blow the place up with a bomb in his backpack.

He demanded that Police and negotiators be called and warned everyone to stay away from him until they arrived. Security staff eventually noticed that there were no wires or bomb detonators visible, so they rushed Oleg and held him down until Police arrived.

Just as he had planned, he was thrown in jail for three years and two months, where he will enjoy at least two meals a day and a roof over his head.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Maintaining gut and liver health requires a combination of timely diagnosis, medical care, and lifestyle balance.

By Dr. Nischay R - Consultant – Gastroenterology & Hepatology, Manipal Hospitals, Mysuru

manipalhospitals
LIFE'S ON

** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature*

Elected unopposed

The new Directors with Suttur Seer Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Swamiji.

Mysuru, Feb. 21- The following have been elected unopposed as Board of Directors of JSS Hostels Alumni Housing Co-operative Society for a 5-year term (2026-31): R. Kemparaju, A.S. Guruswamy, Channappa, A.S. Channabasappa, T.L. Nagaraju, N. Nagendramurthy, M. Nanjundappa, Vatal B. Anand, Subbappa, Shanmukha, M.M. Swamy, Dr. B.P. Manjula and C.M. Nagajyothi, according to a press release.

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM	KABINI DAM	HARANGI DAM
Maximum **124.80 feet**	Maximum **2,284 feet**	Maximum **2,859 feet**
Today's level **115.74 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,273.17 feet**	Today's level **2,830.06 feet**
Last year's level **115.11 feet**	Last year's level **2,276.02 feet**	Last year's level **2,837.00 feet**
Yesterday's level **116.06 feet**	Thursday's level **2,273.17 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,830.03 feet**
Today's Inflow **258 cusecs**	Yesterday's Inflow **221 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **239 cusecs**
Today's Outflow **4,353 cusecs**	Yesterday's Outflow **1,200 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **200 cusecs**

REALLY...?

- *The first, true self-propelled automobile was a three-wheeled, steam-powered tractor built by Nicolas-Joseph Cugnot in 1769, but the modern gasoline car era began with Karl Benz's "Patent-Motorwagen" in 1886.*
- *These early vehicles were often three-wheeled, slow (around 10 mph) and required significant manual effort to operate, with early innovations including steam, electric and combustion engines.*

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

Teacher: *Why is your Mathematics notebook looking so sad?*
Clever Boy: *Because of all its problems!*

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= Rs. 90.73
1 UK Pound	= Rs. 122.32
1 UAE Dirham	= Rs. 24.71
1 Euro	= Rs. 106.93

VOICE OF THE READER

My Tree Audit: Ensure root-space reclamation

Sir,

The recent launch of the roadside tree survey titled Mysuru Tree Audit 2025-26 (Project 'Nam Mara' - My Tree) in collaboration with the Bherunda Foundation is a landmark step for Mysuru's green heritage.

However, the data collected should not be kept solely for records. Many of our heritage trees are currently being suffocated by asphalt and concrete laid right up to their trunks during recent road works.

I urge the authorities to mandate a one-metre porous buffer around every geo-tagged tree.

Allowing roots to breathe is the only way to prevent the sudden collapses that threaten public safety during our increasingly heavy monsoon winds.

The survey team should ensure that root-space reclamation follows My Tree Audit.

—Vivek

Mysuru 6.2.2026

DCF assures steps to constitute Tree Protection Committee

Mysuru, Feb. 21 (BCT)- A delegation of the Mysore Grahakara Parishat (MGP) met Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF Territorial), Mysuru, K. Paramesh, urging the formation of a Tree Protection Committee to address growing concerns over environmental pollution, tree felling and the steady erosion of the city's green cover.

Responding positively, he said a meeting would be convened shortly to initiate the process of constituting the Committee.

Mysuru, long regarded as a green and clean city known for its parks and lush surroundings, has in recent years witnessed rising pollution levels, increasing heat and dust and noticeable climatic changes.

During the meeting, the MGP delegation highlighted the need for immediate intervention. They pointed out that a comprehensive survey would help identify the number of trees lost in each ward and the project could yield several other long-term benefits.

Paramesh emphasised that once the Tree Protection Committee is constituted, no tree can be felled without its approval.

Assuring the delegation of action, he said he would seek necessary Government approval and convene a meeting to formally establish the committee, which would help curb ongoing environmental damage.

The delegation comprised Mysore Grahakara Parishat President Roy Joseph, Major General (Retd.) S.G. Vombatkere, Executive Committee Member Bhamy V. Shenoy and Convener D.V. Dayanand Sagar.

Duplin merchants in 'complex' situation

Wary of losing business following MDA's diktat to vacate shops by March first week: Merchants Assn.

Mysuru, Feb. 21 (BLU&BS)- Following the decision of Mysuru Development Authority (MDA) to evict the tenants of Duplin Complex near Chikkagadiyara in city, the Duplin Complex Merchants Association is wary over suffering a dent in their business.

Addressing media persons at the Complex premises here recently, Association President Girish said, after the statement issued by MDA Commissioner K.R. Rakshith to take the Complex into their possession, the mounting fear and confusion has pushed the traders into a fix.

"We have lost peace as the prevailing situation may have a cascading effect on trader and distributors relationship. The Complex is formed of grocery stores, medical stores etc. The distributors were lending the goods and collecting the amount only later. Now, the distributors are hesitant to supply, fearing that, if MDA vacates shops by March first week, they may end up losing substantial amount of money owed by the traders. The impact on transaction is being felt for one week," he rued.

He also clarified that no traders will move Court, with an appeal against the latest High Court order that has come out in favour of MDA. 'We have ownership of shops and hence the decision of MDA is not a binding on us,' claimed Girish.

Seeking clarity over MDA's decision, the traders had gone to meet MDA Commissioner, but the latter's Personal Assistant, directed them towards MDA Secretary Johnson. However, the Secretary passed the buck on Commissioner, keeping the confusion among traders alive.

Girish demanded that the MDA Commissioner should clarify in the interest of traders, who continue to be in a state of muddle.

Assn. Vice-President Jagadish, Secretary Srinivas and Treasurer Harsha were present.

Ban orders around PU exam centres

Mysuru, Feb. 21- With the II PU exams scheduled to take place from Feb. 28 to Mar. 17, the City Police Commissioner has imposed prohibitory orders in 200 mts. radius around all the 28 exam centres in the city from 6 am to 6 pm on exam days.

Accordingly, barring examinees and the staff, no other unauthorised person will be allowed entry to the exam centres.

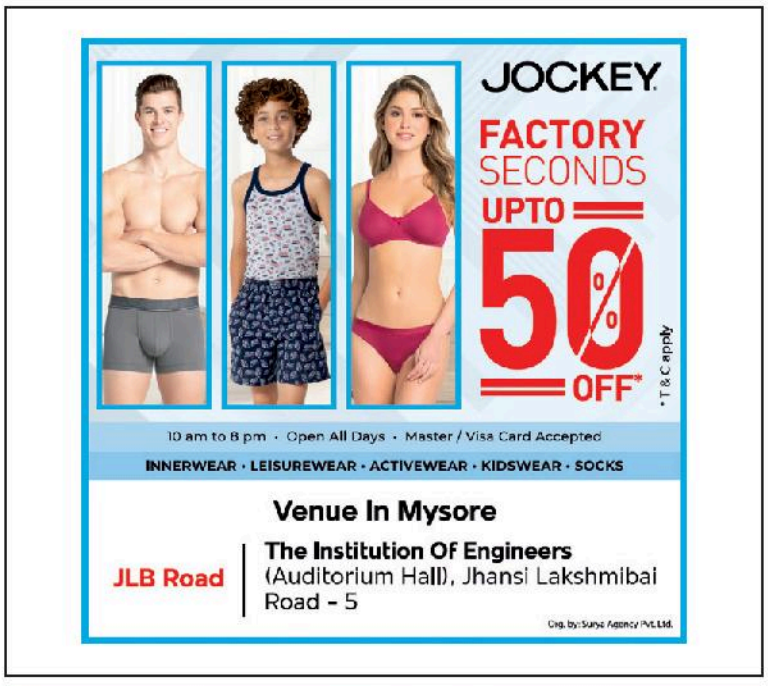
Also, all photocopy shops, browsing centres in the vicinity are ordered to shut down during exam hours.

PPAT to host flute concert

Mysuru, Feb. 21- In memory of late Vidwan A.V. Prakash, **Prakash Performing Arts Trust (PPAT),** Mysuru, has been organising innovative classical music programmes and workshops under the title 'Dhwani' for the last few years.

Similarly, this year, Karnatak classical flute recital by the students, Anmay S. Gowda and Shreenidhi Shiruru, has been arranged at #33, Prakasha Nilaya, Surya Layout, Behind Naidu Stores, Srirampura 2nd Stage, tomorrow (Feb. 22) at 6 pm.

Bhuvan Ravishankar and Prerana Praveen will accompany on mridanga and violin respectively, according to a press release from PPAT President A.P. Krishna Prasad.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NEWS BRIEFS

Power disruption tomorrow

As Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) has undertaken works related to installation of new electric towers and electrical conductor at Bannimantap Power Distribution Centre (Siddalingapura Feeder limits), there will be disruption in power supply on Feb. 22 between 2 am to 2 pm in the following areas: K.R. Mill Colony, Siddalingapura, Kalasthavadi, Naganahalli, Lakshmipura, K.R. Mill and surrounding areas.

As quarterly maintenance works are taken up at Nanjangud and Tandavapura Power Distribution Centre, power supply will be disrupted in the following areas from 10 am to 6 pm: Nanjangud town, Kallalli Industrial Area, Nestle, AT&S, Max Pharma, Devirammanahalli, Debur, Handuvinahalli, Tandavapura Chikkaihana Chatra, Maraluru villages and Gram Panchayat limits; Tandya Industrial Area, Balaji, Indus, Kempisiddanahundi, Hulimavu villages and Gram Panchayat limits.

Spardha Abhiyan

Krishik Sarvodaya Foundation (KSF) has launched 'Spardha Abhiyan-2026', a comprehensive free mock test programme for aspirants preparing for various competitive exams, starting from today (Feb. 21). The Abhiyan is open for aspirants preparing for UPSC, KPSC, KAS, Police, KEA, Banking, SSC, Railways and other Government competitive exams. The mock test will be conducted every Saturday at Krishik Bhavan, Gen. K.S. Thimayya Road, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, strictly following the latest real examination pattern in both Kannada and English mediums. [Mob: 96862-21564 or 82960-31570].

Painting Expo

As part of National Science Day, Mysuru Science Foundation has organised a one-day Painting Exhibition of top Scientists by U.G. Mohankumar Aradhya at Suchitra Art Gallery in Kalamandira premises on Feb. 22 from 10.30 am to 7.30 pm. Dr. Prasanna K. Santhekadur will inaugurate the exhibition at 10.30 am. Foundation President C. Krishnegowda will preside.

Workshop

Netaji Education Foundation, located on Krishna Vilas Road, near Jaganmohan Palace, Devaraja Mohalla, is conducting a free workshop for aspirants of HSTR/ GPSTR teacher posts, at its premises tomorrow (Feb. 22) at 5.30 pm. For registration and details, contact Mob: 63641-16745 or 94807-09611.

Rs. 38 lakh lost to cyber fraud

73-yr-old retired individual, homemaker among latest victims; CEN Cops file FIRs

Mysuru, Feb. 21 (BS)- In two separate cases, a septuagenarian person and a homemaker have together lost Rs. 38 lakh to a cyber fraud racket.

In the first case, 73-year-old M. Rajashekar (name changed to protect identity), a retired person and resident of Srirampura Second Stage, has lost Rs. 28 lakh to a trading group, while in another case, Roopa (name changed), a homemaker and resident of Shaktinagar, has lost Rs.10.61 lakh to a man, who had befriended her on social media. The City CEN Police have filed First Information Reports (FIRs) in both the cases.

Repeated calls

According to the FIR dated Feb. 19, Rajashekar received WhatsApp calls from three different cellphone numbers (70397-82186, 73793-09312 and 86938-61083, on Jan. 21. The *modus operandi* was common — the caller, stranger to the complainant, introduced herself as Dia Mehra, shared a trading link for the purpose of providing information on WhatsApp. Later, his number was added to a WhatsApp group named 'ABSL HNW Group', only to upload information daily about trading.

Later, the complainant was asked to download 'ABSL HNW App' and register self. As per the instructions of ABSL HNW customer service, the complainant transferred Rs. 28 lakh from his ICICI bank account to different bank accounts suggested by ABSL customer service.

Helpless victim

On Feb. 12, Rajashekar received an IPO on his ABSL HNW account, with the instructions to pay Rs. 31 lakh. When he expressed his helplessness to pay such a huge amount, the perpetrators warned of cancelling his share of profit, that was displayed virtually on the App. Rajashekar, who suspected something fishy, enquired with his son, only to know that he has been taken for a ride by cyber fraudsters.

Meticulously planned

In the second case, Roopa came in contact with a stranger, who had befriended her on social media in August 2025. He later started calling her on WhatsApp from 87876-29705, only to earn her faith. The suspect, who introduced himself as an armyman, staying in Dubai, told her about dispatching a gift to her, after paying the customs charges in Dubai itself. He had insisted her to pay the customs charges, once the gift reaches Delhi Airport.

On Oct. 1, 2025, Roopa got a WhatsApp voice call from 99186-71270, where the caller introduced as an employee of a courier company. The courier staff informed Roopa about expensive gift sent to her name, insisting her to make the payment. For a period of two months, between Oct. 1, 2025 to Dec. 28, 2025, Roopa had paid Rs. 9.01 lakh, Rs. 1 lakh and Rs. 60,000, totalling Rs. 10.61 lakh.

Wait for parcel...

However, the wait for parcel, that was believed to be containing expensive gift, proved longer. Following this, Roopa called the man, whom she had befriended online, asking for the reason for delay. He later convinced her by saying, he himself will return the amount and bring the parcel to her. He gradually stopped calling her, following which Roopa learnt that she has been defrauded.

T. Narasipur Stadium plan runs into a row

Environmental lovers riled over selecting ecologically rich site for the project; demand change in location

Mysuru, Feb. 21 (MK&BS)- The proposed stadium of Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports (DYES), at an estimated cost of Rs. 6 crore, at T. Narasipur in the district, has triggered a controversy. The environmentalists have raised exception, as the land earmarked for the project is an ecologically sensitive place.

The five-acre land in Survey Nos. 22 and 23 at Bhyrapura village in T. Narasipur, was handed over to DYES in October 2025. The land is a part of vast tract of land earlier belonging to Filature Factory of Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation (KSIC) Ltd., It is replete with 552 trees belonging to different species, over 40 birds and 30 butterflies, that roost here.

Trees, birds...

Among several hundreds of trees, 55 are teak, 24 sandalwood, two each of Peepal Tree and Mahogany, 12 neem, 53 coconut, 82 arecanut, 14 silver, 11 each of tamarind, guava and jamun, with most of them spanning a century. While the intention to build a stadium is good, how fair it is to destroy the environment in the name of development? the green lovers question.

With T. Narasipur Assembly Constituency being represented by the District Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa, the environmental activists want a shift in location identified for the project. With already several hundreds of trees killed for development works, what was the fuss behind selecting the site, rich in greenery, ask the naturalists.

No harm to trees

Meanwhile, Bhaskar Nayak, Assistant Director of Sports Department, claimed that, the works related to the stadium will be carried out, without harming the trees.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, in the wake of raging criticism of environmentalists, Nayak said, the land for stadium was finalised, after visiting several lands. It is a long pending demand to construct a stadium for T. Narasipur town. The proposed stadium includes basketball, volleyball and kho-kho courts and 200-metre running track. Hence, no question of cutting down the trees arises, he added.

Budding sports persons

The stadium is planned to encourage budding sports persons, but some of the environmentalists are indulged in blowing the issue out of proportion. The site for the stadium was identified after several years of searching for a suitable land. It is unfair on the part of those, crying foul, to do so, said Nayak.

Greens petition DC: Cite threat to ecology

ADC Dr. P. Shivaraju receiving the memorandum.

Mysuru, Feb. 21 (BLU&BS)- The environmentalists have submitted a memorandum to the District Administration, against the proposal to build a stadium at the land belonging to KSIC's Filature Factory at T. Narasipur in the district, at the cost of greenery.

In a memorandum addressed to Deputy Commissioner (DC) G. Lakshmikanth Reddy, that was handed over to Additional DC Dr. P. Shivaraju on Thursday, the State Organisation of Environmentalists, has cited severe ecological balance, with the possibility of axing over 500 trees belonging to different species, at the Filature Factory premises.

"The bird watchers and environmentalists have observed over 40 bird species and 10 and odd butterflies roosting there, along with several other species. If trees are felled down, the ecology will face a grave threat," they rued.

The mankind is already reeling under the heat of rise in global warming and change in weather pattern. The cutting of hundreds of trees will worsen the situation further. A rule specifies 33% of greenery in factory premises. Citing the rules, any attempts to cut down the trees should be stopped and no works should be taken up for the construction of stadium, the environmentalists urged.

Intense Grilling...

▶ CCB cops detain RTI activist Krishna in Bengaluru Court premises yesterday

▶ Pen drive, hard disc seized from Mysuru house; Krishna released today

Bengaluru / Mysuru, Feb. 21 (BLU&BS)- The Central Crime Branch (CCB) Police of Bengaluru, who detained Mysuru-based Right To Information (RTI) activist Snehamayi Krishna at the premises of City Civil Court yesterday, subjected him to intense grilling.

He was released by Police this afternoon.

Krishna had recently dropped a bombshell, accusing State Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh of receiving a bribe of Rs. 1.6 crore to grant KAS Selection Grade promotion to Dr. D.B. Natesh, former Commissioner of Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

However, Shalini Rajneesh dismissed the charges and clarified her stance, in a six-page written reply to Krishna.

He had also made allegations against CM Siddaramaiah and his family members of securing MUDA 50:50 sites illegally.

RTI activist Snehamayi Krishna

A team of CCB Police from Bengaluru seen in front of Krishna's Office in Mysuru.

Shifted to CCB Main Office

He (Krishna) was initially kept at CCB Office in Shantinagar. At about 11.30 pm, he was shifted to CCB Main Office in the premises of Police Commissioner's Office on Infantry Road.

Today morning, the CCB personnel summoned the person, with whom Natesh is purportedly heard telling to arrange a meeting with Krishna, the audio clip of which had gone viral on social networking sites recently. Both that person, whose identity is concealed and Krishna, were interrogated one-to-one by CCB sleuths, it is said.

Unsuspecting Krishna...

High drama was witnessed yesterday as CCB personnel swooped on Krishna, who had been to City Civil Court to submit documents, to substantiate his bribe allegations against the Chief Secretary. The unsuspecting Krishna was taken into detention and whisked away in a jiffy, even as the bystanders watched with anxiety.

Natesh's complaint

This follows a complaint by Natesh to Bengaluru City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh, alleging that the charges made by Krishna were baseless and without any proof.

"Such false statements are only tarnishing my image. I haven't paid any bribe and please take action on my complaint," Natesh had urged the Police Commissioner, who had referred the case to CCB on Feb. 18.

Documents seized

After taking Krishna, a team of CCB personnel, who came to Mysuru yesterday afternoon, searched his office and residence at Bhyraveshwara Nagar near Gowrishankar Nagar and also that of his mother Jayamma at Bandipalya. The searches began at around 2.40 pm and lasted till evening.

Krishna's wife G.N. Vinoda, who was present at the time of search, said that the CCB personnel have seized pen drive, hard disc and some of the documents from the house while no documents were seized from the mother-in-law's house.

Krishna's son Vivek, who rushed to CCB Office, had held Government responsible, if his father was subjected to any harm.

State defends promotion of former MUDA Commissioner

D.B. Natesh

Bengaluru, Feb. 21 (KMS & BCT)- The Karnataka Government has defended its decision to promote former Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) Commissioner Dr. D.B. Natesh, stating that the move was in accordance with established legal procedures.

In a six-page reply to Mysuru-based RTI activist Snehamayi Krishna, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh said the promotion was discussed at a State Cabinet meeting and approved collectively.

Krishna had objected to the elevation of certain senior KAS officers, including Natesh, to Selection Grade and had levelled corruption allegations against the Chief Secretary. Shalini Rajneesh dismissed the charges as baseless, false and defamatory, stating that no evidence had been furnished to substantiate the claims.

Complaints had earlier been filed alleging irregularities in the allotment of residential sites during Natesh's tenure as MUDA Commissioner, with accusations of large-scale corruption.

Acting on a court directive, the Lokayukta was asked to investigate the matter.

Sanction has been granted to probe Natesh under Section 17(A) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

The Government maintained that promotions are processed only after due verification and in compliance with prescribed rules. It said strict action would be taken against any official found guilty of misuse of power, corruption or misappropriation of public property.

However, as no serious charges have been proven against Natesh so far, he has not been placed under suspension, the reply stated.

The Chief Secretary further stated that the Government is not obligated to protect any officer and reiterated that the Lokayukta has already conducted an inquiry and submitted its report. In view of this, she said, there is no necessity for the Government to move the High Court in the matter.

Frozen Frames

Meet photographers who capture Palace moments

By Ganesh Anil

A single photograph can evoke thousands of memories. A picture taken at a beautiful location, in particular, becomes unforgettable. Tourist photographers play an important role in creating such cherished moments.

At the Mysore Palace, millions of visitors stand before the majestic structure and have their photographs clicked by tourist photographers, adding yet another treasure to their collection of memories.

No matter how advanced technology becomes, the reflection of the Palace captured in these images gives people a sense of contentment. Many photographers even say that with the blessings of Goddess Chamundeshwari, such moments keep the lamp of happiness glowing in their households.

Wherever people travel in the world, buying a souvenir is customary. Even if nothing is purchased, they make sure to take a photograph so the memory of the place remains eternal. These images become beautiful chapters in the story of life. Likewise, visitors to Mysore Palace carry home special moments created with the help of 17 dedicated tourist photographers who continue their work despite challenges of modern technology.

Attached to Palace Board

In the 1980s, with the cooperation of the Archaeology Department, permission was first granted to a few individuals to photograph tourists inside the Palace premises. Today, 17 photographers work under the Palace Board.

After the Taj Mahal in Agra, the most visited tourist monument in India, Mysore Palace is regarded as one of the country's most popular destinations, attracting millions of visitors from across India and abroad.

During the Dasara festival, visitor numbers rise sharply. Tourist photographers identify the best spots within the Palace grounds, frame memorable shots, click photographs and quickly provide printed copies. The smiles on tourists' faces bring deep satisfaction to these photographers.

From film rolls to digital cameras

In earlier days, cameras lacked today's technological advancements. Photographers relied on roll cameras such as Pentax and SLR models to capture images. Keeping pace with changing times, they now use modern digital cameras.

Earlier, after taking photographs, photographers carefully recorded details in diaries, including the tourists' attire, whether it was a group, couple or individual photo, along with addresses to send prints by post. Despite such effort, they earned only Rs. 12 per photograph. Today, with technology, even children take pictures with ease.

Toward the end of the roll-camera era, digital cameras made work easier. Previously, roll-camera photos were printed in postcard size and mailed. With digital technology and portable printers, photographers can now print a photograph within minutes and hand it directly to delighted tourists.

There was a time when families invited studio photographers to capture special occasions. Later, some bought personal cameras. Now, advanced mobile-phone cameras allow people of all ages to take photos instantly. High-end smartphones are even used for film-making, dealing a significant blow to traditional tourist photographers.

Before mobile photography, people ordered multiple printed copies. Today, many visitors prefer just one image transferred to their phones instead of printed photographs, creating new challenges for tourist photographers.

With dedication, these photographers continue to capture visitors alongside the Mysore Palace. By providing instant photographs, they help promote the Palace's grandeur, while tourists carry these memories home to cherish for years, said T.S. Subramanya, Deputy Director, Mysore Palace Board.

MEET THE PALACE PHOTOGRAPHERS: ***Varun Kumar, Yogesh, Basavaraj, Shanmugam, Balaji, Manjunath Jetti, Venkatesh, Satish, Sridhar Shetty, Malegowda, Manu, Prakash, Somashekar, Kumar, Ravi and Soundar Raj.***

Youth Congress' shirtless protest during AI Summit

Police foil BJP's attempt to lay siege to Congress Office

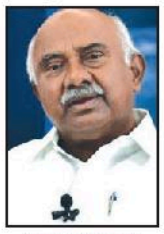
Mysuru, Feb. 21 (BLU&VNS)- Hundreds of BJP Yuva Morcha members, in protest against the Youth Congress workers' shirtless protest during the AI Summit-2026 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi yesterday, tried to lay siege to City Congress Office on JLB Road here this morning.

However, the Police personnel deployed at the spot, foiled the BJP's attempts by blocking the approach roads including JLB Road, Irwin Road, Dhanvantri Road and KRS Road.

However, a few BJP Yuva Morcha members, who tried to force through the barricades, were taken into preventive custody and shiftedin the Police van to CAR Grounds to be released later.

The protest was led by BJP Yuva Morcha City President Rakesh, Rural President Arjun and General Secretary Raghu.

MLC accuses Siddaramaiah Govt. of excessive borrowings



Vishwanath

Mysuru, Feb. 21 (BLU&DM)- MLC A.H. Vishwanath has accused the Siddaramaiah-led Congress Government of borrowing excessively without any discretion.

Addressing a press meet at Jaladarshini Guest House here this morning, Vishwanath said that the Siddaramaiah Government is boasting about its Guarantee Schemes, even as the Supreme Court has rapped the State Governments for announcing freebies and Guarantees without any forethought.

"There are guidelines for old age pension and pension for persons with disabilities. However, there are no such guidelines for Guarantee Schemes. The Congress Government is unnecessarily spending the tax-payers money on advertisements and publicity, which is ridiculous. The Congress Government should take serious note of the Supreme Court's observations and focus more on creation of jobs," he pointed out.

Stating that the State Government, with an eye on Excise revenue, is making the people alcoholic and destroying their families, the MLC accused Siddaramaiah of tarnishing the image of Mahatma Gandhi by promoting drinking culture.

"I am repentful for having brought Siddaramaiah to the Congress two decades ago. I will soon hold a 'Satyagraha' as a remorse. The CM is getting prepared to present a Rs. 4.5 lakh crore Budget, when the loans and other borrowings itself exceed Rs. 7.5 lakh crores which is nothing but a farce. Siddaramaiah is using his Kuruba caste for his selfish ends and to stay in power. The reality is that he has done little for the community," he maintained.

Maintaining that Electricity Transmission and Distribution (T&D) losses are running up to 70 percent, he chided Siddaramaiah, who claims to be an economist, for having failed to plug this loss. He further alleged that Siddaramaiah had failed to keep his word on handing over power to his Deputy D.K. Shivakumar.

He also took strong exception to the arrest of social activist Snehamayi Krishna, who has made several charges against the CM and the Government.

Obituary

Mallengada Ummakki

Mysuru, Feb. 21- Mallengada Ummakki (Kamala-Maneyapanda), wife of late Uthaiah (Uthani) and a resident of #5B, 1st Main, 1st Cross Road, Mathuranagar, Metagalli, KRS Road, Mysuru, passed away last night. She was 82.

A native of Theral village in Ponnampet taluk of Kodagu district, she leaves behind a host a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were held at Muktidhama in Vijaynagar 4th Stage here this afternoon.

K. Devamma

Nanjangud: K. Devamma (68), a resident of Gowthama Layout near Deveerammanahalli in Nanjangud town, passed away on yesterday morning.

She leaves behind her husband Gopalaswamy (retired Agriculture Department Officer), three sons and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at Srirampura Burial Grounds in Nanjangud town yesterday evening.

K.V. Puttaswamygowda

K.R. Pet: K.V. Puttaswamygowda (90), a senior newspaper distributor of K.R. Pet town, passed away here yesterday.

He leaves behind his wife, a daughter, two sons including Cable Nagaraj and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed at his farmland near Mallenahalli on K.R. Pet-Hemagiri Road yesterday evening, according to family sources.

Hon. Doctorate for ex-Minister P.G.R. Sindhia

Mysuru, Feb. 21- Former Karnataka Minister P.G.R. Sindhia has been selected for Honorary Doctorate degree of Gulbarga University.

Sindhia

Sindhia, a veteran politician, who is also currently the Karnataka Scouts and Guides Chief Commissioner, will be conferred the Hon. Doctorate by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot during Gulbarga University Convocation to be held at Kalaburagi on Feb. 24.

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Any person/s asserting any right title, charge, lien, claim or any interest whatsoever on the SCHEDULE PROPERTY or any part thereof, is hereby required to communicate the same in writing to the undersigned, along with documentary evidence, within **Seven (07)** days from the date of this Public Notice, failing which the transaction with respect of the SCHEDULE PROPERTY will be completed on the basis that there are no claims of whatsoever nature with respect of the SCHEDULE PROPERTY. Any claims received thereafter shall not be binding on my client.

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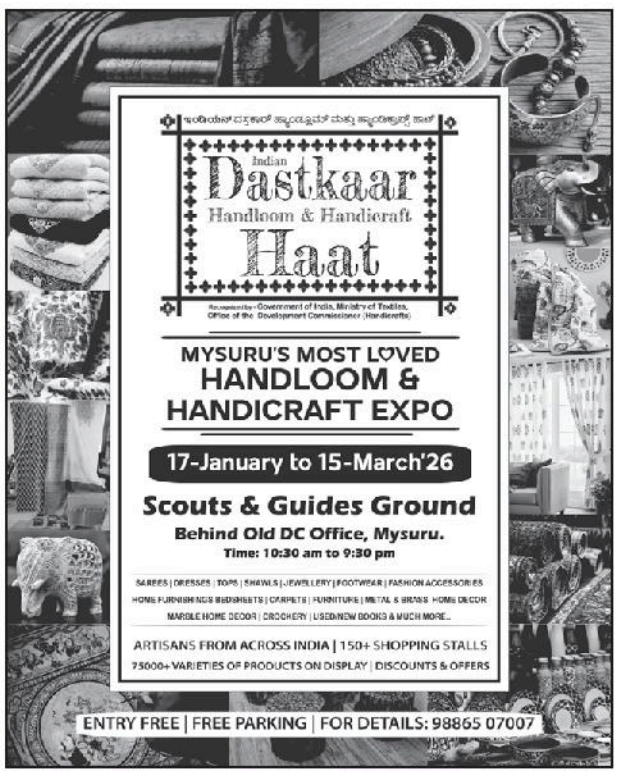
WEST by : Property of Swamygowda
NORTH by : Property of Nagaraju
SOUTH by : 25 Feet Road

Sd/- **Prakash Kalappa M.N.**
Advocate, KAR 1996/2000
2-3, First Floor, PRI Complex, 67/7A,
New Sayyaji Rao Road, Fort Mohalla,
Mysore 570004. **Cell: 93431 12535**
E-mail: mnprakashkalappa@gmail.com
Date: 20.02.2026, Place: Mysuru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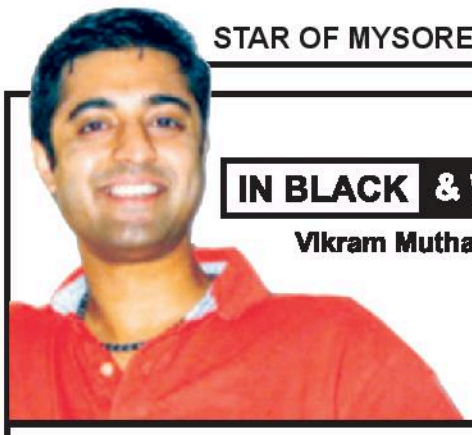

IN BLACK & WHITE

Vikram Muthanna

MCC... flex your authority else...

Mysuru City will turn into Flex City

Mysuru is called a Royal Heritage City, but for nearly a decade now, it's become a *'Flex City.'*

There are flex boards and flex hoardings everywhere. They are at Circles, they are atop buildings, they are on trees, they have climbed Chamundi Hill and even crawled into the median of Mysuru-Bengaluru Highway !

Our city has been suffering from an illegal hoarding epidemic for 15 years. Attempts have been made to end it... again... and again, but the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) fails again... and again. They have made another attempt but we fear they will fail yet again.

Day before yesterday, the MCC conducted what can only be described as a *'Cinderella Operation'* — a midnight flex-removal drive.

MCC, under the cover of darkness, removed illegal banners. But one is forced to ask: Why must enforcement occur at midnight? If the administration is upholding the law, it should do so visibly and confidently.

When enforcement avoids daylight, it suggests hesitation, instead of projecting strength.

MCC should do these drives in broad daylight to send a message that it does not fear implementing the law. If you hide the implementation of the law from those it is meant to regulate, it signals weakness and lack of resolve.

This will only make them think you fear them and this in turn will embolden them and the flex posters will return. Like they have been after every clearance drive.

Why so cynical, one may ask? How can one not be considering that this farce is played out every two years?

In August 2014, the Urban Development Ministry announced that it would fine *'heavily'* those who erect unauthorised cut-outs, banners or hoardings! What happened? Nothing.

In 2006, the MCC proposed to declare K.R. Circle, Five-Lights Circle, Ramaswamy Circle etc., as *'hoarding-free'* zones and ban commercial hoardings within 100 metres of heritage sites.

> **"MCC, under the cover of darkness, removed illegal banners. But one is forced to ask: Why must enforcement occur at midnight? If the administration is upholding the law, it should do so visibly and confidently. When enforcement avoids daylight, it suggests hesitation, instead of projecting strength."**

What happened? Nothing.

In 2009, the MCC started an *'illegal hoarding drive'* to which some people protested and the drive was stopped.

In 2011, the MCC Council passed a resolution banning hoardings in the core heritage areas and said that cases would be filed against violators.

What happened? Nothing.

The penalty for unauthorised disfigurement by advertisement as per The Karnataka Open Places (Prevention of Disfigurement) Act, 1981, is punishable with imprisonment and fine.

Has the MCC booked anyone till date? No.

This ineffective drive by authorities has emboldened many, and now, thanks to that, our Circles named after kings, reformers and administrators now resemble medieval announcement squares.

Obituary flexes. Birthday flexes. Political flexes. *"Long live our beloved leader"* flexes dot our city. The leader, invariably, is speaking on a mobile phone and glowing in three shades lighter than humanly possible, while loyal *'chamchas'* grin from his chest, stomach and occasionally from anatomically confusing locations. Politicians can stop this menace, but they won't because flex is an assertion. It is territorial marking.

Politicians thrive and survive on public perception of them being powerful. And peppering the city with posters is one way of doing it.

The problem is not limited to political banners. During Dasara, Government Departments themselves become enthusiastic participants in visual excess.

Poorly designed awareness posters appear on private hoardings. Public spaces are handed over without aesthetic guidelines.

For a city that speaks often of beautification, we display a curious tolerance for *'uglification.'* Even more troubling is the seasonal nature of enforcement.

Clean-up drives often intensify just before *'Swachh Survekshan'* inspections or high-profile visits. Once the assessors depart, the flex returns, not tentatively, but triumphantly.

Enforcement that is episodic invites defiance. Consistency alone creates deterrence.

This menace of illegal hoardings cannot be stopped with seasonal drives. It is a perennial problem and needs a perennial solution.

Maybe, like how the Police had *'Garuda'* vehicles and *'Cheetah'* bikes for patrolling, MCC also can have a *'Giraffe'* Jeep — an MCC team in a vehicle with a ladder patrolling the city and tearing down illegal banners.

While our administration constantly talks about the beautification of our city, they encourage its *'uglification'* by not implementing the law.

Unless MCC really *'flexes'* its muscles against flex menace, our city will become *'Flex City.'*

'Mysore' will become an *'Eyesore.'*

e-mail: vikram@starofmysore.com

Illegal flexes: Former MP
Prathap Simha seeks action

Former Mysuru-Kodagu MP Prathap Simha and his delegation discussing the flex banner menace with MCC Commissioner Shaikh Tanveer Asif at his office on Sayyaji Rao Road this morning.

(Continued from page 1)

Responding to the representation, Commissioner Asif said, the MCC has already launched a drive to remove illegal flex boards and assured that stringent action would be taken to prevent the menace from resurfacing.

In his memorandum, Simha also stated that the indiscriminate erection of flex boards has damaged Mysuru's aesthetic appeal. "Four years ago, such unauthorised flexes were absent in Mysuru. Their recent proliferation is harming the city's image and must be curbed immediately," he said.

Legal action warned

He urged the Commissioner to direct officials to remove all flex boards affixed to information and guide signboards, conduct regular inspections to prevent violations and initiate legal proceedings against individuals and organisations responsible for unauthorised installations.

Simha further called upon the MCC to register cases under the Karnataka Open Places (Disfigurement Prevention) Act, 1981 and ensure swift removal of the banners. Failure to act, he warned, would force him and other civic activists to move the Court against the Corporation.

Later, speaking to reporters, Simha stressed that maintaining civic order and preserving Mysuru's aesthetic appeal are vital for public safety, smooth traffic movement and the city's reputation as a heritage and clean destination.

"Tourists coming to Mysuru are seeing only ugly flexes on information boards and are expressing anger at the city being reduced to a dustbin. In 2011, the MCC Council passed a resolution banning flex banners, but it was not enforced," he said.

Issue notices to all political parties

When reporters pointed out that political parties and candidates are often responsible for putting up such banners, Simha said, strict action should be taken irrespective of party affiliation.

"Penalise political parties, including the BJP, Congress and the JD(S), if they or their followers install flex banners. Issue notices to them. I have told the Commissioner not to spare even me. Only stringent action will stop political leaders from encouraging the installation of flex, banners," he added.

Former Corporators J.S. Jagadeesh, Sriram and Sathish, Yadavagiri Residents' Welfare Association President S.K. Dinesh, Chamaraja Constituency BJP President Dinesh Gowda, BJP leader Umesh and others were present with former MP Prathap Simha.

Ambulances stuck in traffic chaos, golden hour lost

Mysuru, Feb. 21 (BLU&BCT)- Patients battling for survival are facing critical delays in reaching hospitals as ambulances struggle to navigate heavy traffic at K.R. Circle, raising serious concerns about emergency response in the city.

Despite the urgency of the 'golden hour', when every second can determine life or death, motorists are allegedly failing to give way even when ambulances approach with sirens blaring and horns sounding.

Ambulance drivers, conscious of the time-sensitive nature of medical emergencies, often speed towards hospitals with sirens on. However, at traffic signals, particularly at K.R. Circle, vehicles reportedly remain stationary, showing little urgency to clear a path. The situation, drivers say, has become a routine ordeal.

Two ambulances stuck

Yesterday morning and again in the afternoon, ambulances transporting patients to K.R. Hospital and Cheluvamba Hospital were stuck at K.R. Circle.

Despite repeated sirens, continuous honking and even drivers shouting for space, cars, autorickshaws and two-wheelers did not move until the signal turned green, resulting in the loss of precious minutes.

Traffic Police are expected to intervene in such situations and facilitate the movement of emergency vehicles. However, on both occasions, no traffic personnel were present at the junction, forcing ambulances to wait.

Fatal consequences

Ambulances play a crucial role in responding to accidents, cardiac arrests and other life-threatening conditions.

Timely hospital admission is vital and even brief delays can have fatal consequences. Yet, many motorists continue to treat ambulances like regular vehicles, failing to recognise their priority on the road.

Fearing penalties?

Some drivers are also said to hesitate in crossing signals to make way for ambulances, fearing penalties for signal violations.

Senior Police officials must clarify that motorists assisting ambulances will not be penalised and ensure adequate deployment of traffic personnel at key junctions like K.R. Circle.

Unless immediate corrective measures are taken, repeated delays at critical intersections could put more lives at risk.

Legacy waste at Excel Plant in Vidyaranyapuram

I delivered where local MLAs failed, says Prathap Simha

Mysuru, Feb. 21 (MTY&BCT)- The controversial Solid Waste Management Unit, popularly known as the Excel Plant, at the Sewage Farm, which had drawn repeated protests from residents over the foul stench from accumulated waste, will soon cease to exist as over six lakh tonnes of legacy waste have already been cleared, former Mysuru-Kodagu MP Prathap Simha said.

Addressing reporters this morning outside the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) Office, Simha claimed credit for initiating and pursuing the project. "What seemed impossible for years and what local MLAs could not achieve, I have accomplished. I initiated the waste clearance project when V. Somanna was the Mysuru District Minister and followed it up continuously with the Central and State Governments. Today, residents can heave a sigh of relief," he said.

He stated that the waste clearance was undertaken with financial support under the Swachh Bharat programme of the Government of India. "I secured the Rs. 52.48 crore grant from the Centre for clearing legacy waste that had piled up like mountains over the last 30 years," he said.

Simha further disclosed that although two firms had initially bid for the project, the tenders were cancelled due to a revision in the Schedule of Rates (SR Value). The final contract was awarded in March 2024 to Surat-based D.H. Patel Company for clearing the waste through bio-remediation (bio-mining).

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Eminent Educationist Dr. Gururaj Karajagi to open Mysuru Literary Fest tomorrow

Mysuru, Feb. 21- The 7th edition of Mysuru Literary Fest-2026, organised by Mysore Literary Association, will be held at the Maharaja's College Centenary Hall in city tomorrow (Feb. 22) from 10 am to 4.30 pm.

Dr. Gururaj Karajagi, Eminent Educationist, will inaugurate the fest being held under the Presidentship of Prof. K.C. Belliappa, Association President and former Vice-Chancellor of Central University, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh.

Inauguration will follow sessions by Dr. B. Hariharan, Senior Professor of English, University of Kerala, on *Don Quixote's Life in New Translations* at 11. 30 am; Preeti Shenoy, Author and Illustrator, will be in conversation with Dr. Geetha Kariappa at 12.30 pm; M.K. Raghavendra, Film Critic and Writer, will speak on *Narration in Indian Popular Cinema and the Mimetic Urge* at 2.30 pm and Dr. Chandan Gowda, Professor and Dean, School of Liberal Arts, Vidyashilp University, Bengaluru, will speak on *Romancing Development: The Mysore Episode* at 3.30 pm.

Here we publish the profiles of the chief guest and the four guest speakers. Participation in the Fest is free and open to all English literature lovers. For details and registration, contact Mob: 99806-56631.

Dr. Gururaj Karajagi

Dr. Gururaj Karajagi has a doctorate in Chemistry and has published over 22 research papers in international journals.

A Life Fellow of the Electrochemical Society of India, he has served on the Boards of Management of a few Medical Universities.

Dr. Karajagi also served as a member of the State Resource Group (SRG) for the implementation of Total Quality Management (TQM) in the colleges of Karnataka.

He has served as the Principal of V.V.S. First Grade College for Women, Bengaluru, for 16 years and was the Director of V.V.S. Academic and Administrative College; Founder-Principal and Academic Director of Jain International Residential School and also Founder-Director of International Academy for Creative Teaching. Presently, he is the Chairman of the Academy for Creative Teaching in Bengaluru.

Besides serving as a member of the Syndicates of a few Universities, he has served as a member of the Karnataka Knowledge Commission.

He is the Trustee of the Loka Shikshana Trust, a leading publishing house that brings out a Daily, Weekly and Monthly publications and the Trustee of Maharani Lakshmi Ammanni College for Women (Autonomous), Bengaluru.

He is also the Chairman of the Governing Council of the College of Fine Arts, Chitrakala Parishat, Bengaluru.

A well-known columnist, he has completed more than 3,500 columns. As of now, he has authored thirty-two books, translated two books and edited 36 books.

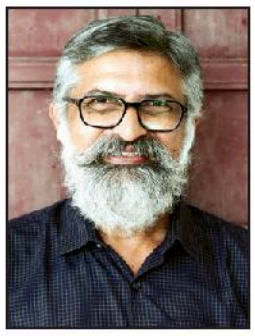
He is also known for his daily spiritual discourses on a bilingual TV channel *Sri Sankara* with over 500 programmes on Dasa Sahitya and Vachana Sahitya.

Through the Academy for Creative Teaching, Dr. Karajagi is instrumental in building over 109 schools of very high quality all over the world.

Dr. Gururaj Karajagi is generally considered as an institution builder.

Dr. B. Hariharan

Dr. B. Hariharan, Senior Professor, Institute of English, University of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, started his teaching career in 1994 as a lecturer in Christ College, Irinjalakuda. He left Christ College and joined Prajyoti Niketan College, Pudukad in 1995.



He joined as Lecturer at the PG Centre of the University of Mysore in Hassan in 1999 and served there till 2008. After serving in Mysore University, he joined the Institute of English, University of Kerala in 2008.

He is currently Senior Professor at the Institute of English. He became the Hon. Director of the UGC Area Study Centre for Canadian Studies in University of Kerala in 2012 and he continues to promote Canadian Studies.

He was the Project Coordinator of the UGC-SAP second phase at the Institute of English during 2015-2020.

He also served as an Executive Council Member of the Shastri Indo Canadian Institute, New Delhi, during 2015-2017 and was its Vice-President during the period 2021-2022 and President in 2022-2023.

He also served as the Head of the Institute of English during 2020-2023.

He was awarded a UGC Major Research Project during 2009-2011 on "A Study of the Cultural and Architectural Expression of Public Spaces in Kerala."

Fifteen scholars have been awarded Ph.D under his supervision. He has published a monograph on the eminent Canadian novelist/poet Robert Kroetsch. He has also translated four books from Malayalam to English apart from editing nine books on a range of concerns.

Dr. B. Hariharan was interviewed by the poet and scholar Usha Kishore exclusively on the works of Kamala Das.

Preeti Shenoy

Preeti Shenoy is one of India's highest-selling authors, with over a million books sold across seventeen best-selling titles. Known for her accessible yet profound storytelling, she explores complex themes including mental health, gender inequality, relationships and socio-economic divides with sensitivity and insight.

Featured on Forbes' list of influential Indian celebrities, Preeti has represented India at prestigious international literature festivals in Birmingham, Sharjah and Abu Dhabi.

She has been interviewed on *BBC World* and her work has been widely covered by leading publications.

Her accolades include the Popular Choice Fiction Award (2021) from The Times of India's AutHer Awards, Amazon India's Most Popular Self-Help Book of 2021, Indian of the Year and the Business Excellence Award from the New Delhi Institute of Management.

Beyond writing, Preeti is invited to engage distinguished audiences at eminent institutions, including a talk at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Her talks draw on lived experience and emotional insight to engage large audiences.

She is a monthly columnist with *The Indian Express.* An artist and long-distance runner, Preeti brings the same discipline, curiosity and resilience to her creative life that define her work.

Dr. Chandan Gowda

Dr. Chandan Gowda is a Professor and Dean, School of Liberal Arts, Vidyashilp University, Bengaluru. His recent publications include *Another India: Events, Memories, People* (Simon and Schuster, India) and an edited anthology, *Sangama-Pastorale: The Kannada and English Short Stories of Rajalakshmi N Rao* (Sankathana).

His *Longing for an Elsewhere: Mysore and the Making of India's Developmental State* (Oxford University Press) and his edited *The Greatest Kannada Short Stories Ever Told* (Aleph) will be published soon.

At present, he is editing and co-translating, *Daredevil Mustafa* (HarperCollins, India), a book of short stories by the Kannada writer, Purnachandra Tejasvi.

Dr. Chandan Gowda is a columnist with *Deccan Herald.*

M.K. Raghavendra

M.K. Raghavendra is a writer on culture, literature and politics, specialising in film, particularly its political side.

He won the National Award, the *Swarna Kamal* for Best Film Critic in 1997 and received a Homi Bhabha Fellowship in 2000-2001 to research into popular film narrative. Since then he has published 18 books including 10 academic volumes from international publishers including *Seduced by the Familiar: Narration and Meaning in Indian Popular cinema* (2008), *Philosophical Issues in Indian Cinema: Approximate Terms and Concepts* (2020), *The Writing of the Nation by its Elite: The Politics of Anglophone Indian Literature in the Global Age* (2021), *Without Empathy: Irony and the Satirical Impulse in Eight Major Filmmakers* (2025) and *Reading Contemporary India: An Intercultural Enquiry into Sociocultural Issues* (2025).

Raghavendra has written extensively for journals and periodicals on cinema, culture and politics. His writing has been translated into Spanish, French, Polish and Russian and published.

Heli ride to attract visitors for Budanur Utsav in Mandya

Visitors at Budanur Utsav alighting from the helicopter after enjoying the heli ride introduced by Mandya District Administration as part of the ongoing three-day festival.

Mandya, Feb. 21 (VNS) - In an effort to attract youngsters and tourists to the ongoing three-day Budanur Utsav near Chikkamandya here, the Mandya District Administration launched the helicopter ride here yesterday.

Launching the helicopter ride, Agriculture and District Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy said along with carrying out regular development works in the district, helicopter ride has been introduced as a latest attraction for the public visiting Budanur Utsav to promote heli tourism.

MLAs P. Ravikumar and K.M. Uday, DC Dr. Kumara, ZP CEO K.R. Nandini, SP V.J. Shobha Rani, Assistant Commissioner Shivamurthy and Tahsildar Vishwanath were present.

Mandya District Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy seated in front of the chopper after inaugurating the heli ride yesterday.

Now, access free Wi-Fi facility at Mysore Airport

Mysuru, Feb. 21 (BCT)- Passengers at the Mysore Airport in Mandakalli can now access complimentary high-speed Wi-Fi, following its virtual inauguration yesterday by Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu.

The launch was part of a nationwide initiative held from Coimbatore International Airport, where several passenger-friendly facilities were rolled out across regional airports. The new Wi-Fi service is aimed at enhancing passenger convenience, allowing travellers to complete digital boarding formalities, access online travel services and stay connected with family and colleagues at terminal.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister reiterated the Centre's commitment to strengthening regional air connectivity and improving overall passenger experience.

Officials of the Airports Authority of India and other stakeholders were present at the inauguration ceremony in Coimbatore. The Wi-Fi facility at the Mysore Airport is now operational and available to passengers, according to a press release from Airport Director P.V. Ushakumari.

All India Equestrian Championship, Gwalior

City Mounted Cop

Suresh Malali wins silver, bronze

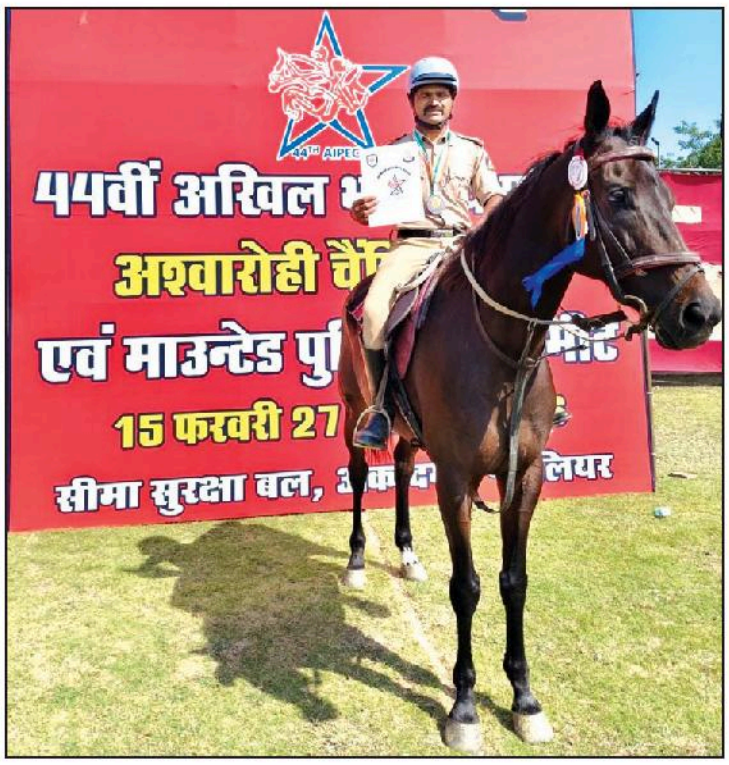
Mysuru, Feb. 21 (BCT)- Suresh Malali, a Head Constable with the Mysuru City Mounted Police, has won silver and bronze medals at the 44th All India Equestrian Championship and Mounted Police Duty Meet 2025-26, bringing laurels to the Karnataka State Police.

Suresh Malali

The Mysuru City Mounted Police team also secured fourth place at the national-level. The championship is being held from Feb. 15 to Feb. 27 at the BSF Academy, Tekanpur, Gwalior, in Madhya Pradesh.

The Karnataka State Police team, represented by the KARP Mounted Company, Mysuru City Unit, is competing against teams from 15 States and Central Mounted Units.

On the opening day, Feb. 15, Malali clinched the silver medal in 'Show Jumping Grade-3' and the bronze medal in the 'Six Bar Jumping' event. He competed on a nine-year-old horse named 'King Power.'



Malali joined the Police force in 2012 and has completed 14 years of service.

In the Quadrille competition, the Karnataka State Police Mounted Company team, comprising S.D. Sasanur (Reserve Police Inspector), Chandra (Armed Reserve Sub-Inspector), Mahesh (Head Constable) and Suresh Malali also delivered a commendable performance.

In the 'Show Jump Preliminary (Normal)' event, Head Constables M.R. Sandesh and K.T. Jayaprakash secured 94th place and were awarded a consolation certificate.

The championship is still underway and the Karnataka State Police Mounted Team is hopeful of adding more medals in the coming days. The Commissioner of Police, Mysuru City and the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Mounted Company, have congratulated the personnel on their achievements at the national-level.

T20 ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP INDIA & SRI LANKA 2026

TODAY'S MATCH [FEB. 21]

SUPER 8s

New Zealand Vs **Pakistan**
Venue: R. Premadasa Stadium, Colombo
Time: 7 pm

TOMORROW'S MATCHES [FEB. 22]

Sri Lanka Vs **England**
Venue: Pallekele Intl. Cricket Stadium, Kandy
Time: 3 pm

India Vs **South Africa**
Venue: Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad
Time: 7 pm

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS [FEB. 20]

Oman 104 all out (16.2 overs)
LOST TO
Australia 108/1 (9.4 overs)

Catch the live action on Star Sports Network and JioHotstar

Pallavi, Rajesh Krishnan enthral audience

Singers M.D. Pallavi and Rajesh Krishnan enthralled audience during Swara Sandya-2026 programme organised as part of the three-day Paridrishya 4th International Festival of Short Films and Documentaries organised by Mysuru Cinema Society at Maharaja's College Grounds on Krishnaraja Boulevard in city yesterday. Today's event will feature singers Hemanth Kumar & Lahari Mahesh and team.

Audience join Rajesh Krishnan at the Swara Sandya-2026 programme yesterday.

Kalemane awards presentation ceremony in city on Feb.22

Mysuru, Feb. 21- Kumar Performing Arts Centre (KPAC), Mysuru, has organised the 69th International Nirantara Kalemane Festival at its Kalemane Sabhaangana in Hebbal 2nd Stage on Feb. 22 from 10 am to 1.30 pm.

On this occasion, a grand music and dance festival titled 'Sacred Darshan of Indian Saints' will be presented.

During the event, the 'Kalemane Kalashree Lifetime Achievement Award' will be conferred upon the eminent dance guru **Prof. Sikkil Vasanthakumari**, Artistic Director of Nalanatya Manjari Trust, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, in recognition of her significant contributions to the field of Bharatanatyam.

The 'Kalemane Kalashree Award' will be presented to Guru **Sanjee Pirantampan**, in recognition of her contribution to the Field of Bharatanatyam, Artistic Director of Natya Kala Manjari, Toronto, Canada.

Journalist Amshi Prasanna Kumar will be the chief guest. The programme will also be attended by Kannada Rajyotsava Award recipient Lalitha Rao, Dr. V. Ranganath and Nandini, Dr. Jamuna Rani V. Mirle, Sitaram, Balakrishnayya, R.G. Singh and S. Radhakrishna.

S. Vasanthakumari Sanjee Pirantampan Dr. K. Kumar

Under the guidance of Karnataka Kalashree **Dr. K. Kumar,** students of KPAC, Mysuru, will present a Bharatanatyam performance titled 'Santa Namana.'

A Bharatanatyam recital will be presented by Sanjee Pirantampan, Toronto, Canada.

Students of Sri Ganesh Sangeetha Nrithyalaya Charitable Trust, Mysuru, under the direction of Dance Guru Aarthi Arun, will present 'Purandara Namana.'

Students of Krishnan Performing Art Academy, Bengaluru, under Dance Guru Seema Krishnan, will present a Kathak performance titled 'Padamrutha.'

Students of Dance Guru Ramya Ram Narayan, Rakshitha Raghunathan, Ragini and their disciples from Samriddhi Dance Foundation, USA, will present a dance production based on the Tyagaraja Pancharatna Kritis.

A musical Lec-Dem presentation of compositions by Saint Tyagaraja & Sri Purandaradasa will be rendered by music scholar Madurai R. Shankar Prasad, accompanied by Vid. G.T. Swamy (mridanga) and Vid. Rupanagudi Ratna Teja (violin).

ಪರಿದೃಶ್ಯ PARIDRISHYA

Entry is free for all the events

TODAY (FEB. 21)

MAIN STAGE

- **6.30 pm to 7 pm:** Cultural Programme by folk artistes.
- **7 pm to 8.30 pm:** Swara Sandya 2026: Musical Night by Hemanth Kumar & Lahari Mahesh and team.

Movies: Theatre 1 (Indian)

- **4 pm to 5 pm:** Seragu (Kannada), Director: Sai Nag; Free Tour (Hindi), Director: Pruthi Raj Pal.
- **5 pm to 6.30 pm:** Endosulfan: A Legacy of Suffering (Kannada and English), Director: Larina Suresh; Whispers of Monsoon (Tamil), Director: R. Adhitya; Wishbox (Hindi), Director: Abhinav Sainger.

Movies: Theatre 2 (International)

- **5 pm to 6.30 pm:** Sheep (Persian), Director: Mehrdad Kabiri; Ugly Beasts, Good People (Italian), Directors: Andrea Massa, Daniele Arosio; Taste the Roots (English), Director: Dani Torres & Kosmos Films.

TOMORROW (FEB. 22)

Movies: Theatre 1

- **9 am to 10 am:** Theyyattam (Malayalam and English), Director: Jayan Mangad.
- **10 am to 11 am:** Pranam Kashi (Hindi), Director: Rahul Yadav.
- **11 am to 12 noon:** The Day Before the Wedding (Konkani), Director: Sobita Shaba Kudtarkar; Kaju Biscuit (Kannada), Director: Abhay and K.R. Kiran Kumar.
- **12 noon to 1 pm:** Village of Bastards (Hindi), Director: Amritansh Shukla and Uday Thakur.
- **2 pm to 3.30 pm:** Rudhi (Pawari), Director: Amogh Sahaje; Regret (Kannada), Director: Akash Raman; Mugguru (Telugu), Director: Madhusudan Reddy Atchala.
- **4 pm to 5 pm:** Otta Maram Kavalla - A Biodiversity (Malayalam), Director: Jayan Mangad; Sharavathi Sangathya (Kannada), Director: Yaaji.

Movies: Theatre 2

- **9 am to 10 am:** Tasian/Forlorn (Persian), Director: Shirin Afrand.
- **10 am to 11 am:** Worker (Persian), Director: Sahar Mokhtarzadegan; Preferentes (Spanish), Director: Nacho Recio; The King of Shivlings (English/ Odia), Directors: Debi Prasad Mohanty and M. Sandeep Sagar.
- **11 am to 12 noon:** The Bedara Vesha I Saw (Kannada), Director; Prajwal Hegde; Chaari Kaandha/The Four Shoulders (Odia), Director: Biswanath Rath.
- **2 pm to 3.30 pm:** Black rain in my eyes (Perisian), Directors: Amir Athar Soheili and Amir Masoud Soheili; Hazzra (Bengali and English), Director: Nabin Kishore Goswami.

64th show of Kailasam's play 'Huttadalli Hutta' tomorrow

Mysuru, Feb. 21- Antharanga Amateur Theatre Group has successfully staged Kailasam's famous play 'Huttadalli Hutta' in many places.

Late T. P. Kailasam, a genius playwright, wrote many plays that are still relevant today. With the support of Niranthara Foundation, Mysuru, Antharanga is staging the 64th show of Kailasam's play 'Huttadalli Hutta' at Mini Theatre in Kalamandira premises tomorrow (Feb. 22) at 7.15 pm.

The play has already received acclaim from both the press and the public alike. It was earlier directed by B.V. Rajaram and is now being presented under the revised direction of Archana Shyam.

A scene from the play 'Huttadalli Hutta.'

Ticket price is Rs. 150. For details, contact Mob: 98809-14509 or 99869-11321.

EVENTS TODAY (FEB. 21)

- **Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya:** 90th anniversary & Mahashivarathri celebrations, Divya Darshana of replica of Gujarat's Sri Somnath Temple, **up to 9 pm;** Discourse by BK Dhanalakshmi, Madikeri, on 'Mounada Mahatva,' **6.15 pm;** Lecture by Prabhuswamy Malimath, Theatre Person and retd. Senior Announcer of Akashvani, Mysuru, on 'Maatu Vyaktitvada Kannadi,' **7 pm;** Flute recital by Ankush Kadaba troupe, Mysuru, ground opp. BVB Mysuru Kendra, Vijayanagar, **8 pm to 9 pm.**
- **Indian Dastkaar Handloom & Handicraft Haat:** Exclusive exhibition on Handlooms, Handicrafts & Lifestyle products, Scouts & Guides Ground, behind Old DC's Office, **up to 9.30 pm.**
- **Kalasuruchi:** Kathe Kelona Banni- 920, story-telling by K. Ganesha-prasad, Procurement Manager, L&T Technology Services, Mysuru, Suruchi Rangamane, #476, Chitrabhanu Road, Kuvempunagar, **4.30 pm to 5.30 pm.**
- **Bangalore Players - Theatre Association:** Staging of play 'Gampara Gumpu' by Bangalore Players - Theatre Association, written by Dasharathi Deekshit, directed by Sreepad S. Srivatsa, Mini Theatre, Kalamandira premises, **(2 shows) 5 pm and 7 pm.**
- **Vidu. H.S. Mahalakshmi and Vidu. H.S. Yadugiri Samsmarana Vedike and Ganabharathi, Mysuru:** 4th year music concerts in memory of Vidu. H.S. Mahalakshmi and Vidu. H.S. Yadugiri, Karnatak music vocal concert by Vidu. Nithyashree, accompanied by Vid. Rupanagudi Ratna Teja on violin, Vid. Shubang Samaga on mridanga, **5.15 pm;** Flute concert by Vid. Mysore A. Chandan Kumar, accompanied by Vidu. Sindhu Suchetan on violin, Vid. Arjun Kumar on mridanga and Vid. G.S. Ramanujam on ghata, Veene Seshanna Bhavana, Ganabharathi, Adichunchanagiri Road, Kuvempunagar, **6.30 pm.**
- **Sri Nadabrahma Sangeetha Sabha:** Grand vocal concert by Vid. S.R. Vinay Sharva from Bengaluru, accompanied by Vaibhav Ramani on violin, Vid. B.S. Prashanth on mridanga and Vid. Sharath Kaushik on ghata, Sabha premises, JLB Road, **6 pm.**
- **Geeth Sangam:** 15th year celebrations, Musical Nite of romantic songs from Kannada & Hindi movies by G. Kavitha Kamath, G. Nithyananda Kamath, Sadashiv Shenoy, Dr. Somanath Vasudev, Hedatale Narayan, Dr. Seethalakshmi Somanath, Annu Murnad, Dr. Ravindra Kumar, B.S. Kumaraswamy, Dr. Bharathi, Geetha Rao, Dr. Bharath Raj and Vinayak Bhat; Dr. R.L. Jagadeesh and M.R. Anitha will compere, Jaganmohan Palace auditorium, **5.30 pm.**
- **Kalabharati, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan (BVB), Mysuru Kendra:** Annual Day of Junior and Sub-Junior students of Bharatanatyam, disciples of Guru Dr. Nagalakshmi Nagarajan, Head of Kalabharati and Committee Member, BVB Mysuru and Founder of Champaka Academy, Mysuru — Dyuthishri. Aadya, Bhuvana, Kaveri, Pranavi, Anvitha, Dhaarini, Ishani, Saanvika, Pranati, Hemanya, Raksha, Sharadhi, Deeksha, Jahnavi and Spoorthi, **5 pm to 5.40 pm;** 'Dasarapadagalu' programme by Vidu. Sadwini Koppa, Bengaluru, accompanied by Yashaswee on violin, M.K. Srinidhi on keyboard, Vinay Rangadhol on rhythm pad and Aathmaram Nayak on tabla, BVB Mysuru premises, Vijayanagar 1st Stage, **6 pm.**
- **BSS Vidyodaya and RAAGA Music Academy, Mysuru and Samskara Bharathi:** 'Bhagini Raaga Sourabha,' an evening of resplendent music, featuring a grand mandolin concert by the young Vid. Rakshith Prasad, accompanied by Vid. Aniruddha Bharadwaj on violin, Vid. K.R. Gurudutt on mridanga and Vid. S. Manjunath on ghata, BSS Vidyodaya, Krishnamurthypuram, **6 pm.**
- **Surabhi Ganakala Mandira:** Sri Purandara and Sri Thyagaraja Aradhane, 'Sri Purandara Navarathna' - Goshti Gayana of Purandara Dasa's compositions, Sri Prasanna Parvathi Kalyana Mantapa, V.V. Mohalla, **6 pm.**
- **Avadhoota Datta Peetham:** Mahashivarathri 2026, Sri Venkatamakhin Memorial & Sri Tyagaraja Aradhana - Mass singing of Thyagaraja Pancharatna compositions, **6 pm;** 4k Projection Mapping on 45-ft tall Karya Siddhi Hanuman statue, Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda Ashram, **(3 Shows) 7.10 pm, 7.40 pm & 8.10 pm.**

EVENTS TOMORROW (FEB. 22)

- **Surabhi Ganakala Mandira:** Sri Purandara and Sri Thyagaraja Aradhane, Goshti Gayana of Thyagaraja Pancharatna Kritis by all musicians from the city, including the students of Surabhi Ganakala Mandira, **8.30 am;** Felicitation to Senior Musicologist, Karnataka Kalashree Vid. V. Nanjundaswamy, with the title 'Nadasurabhi' by senior surgeon and art patron, Dr. C.G. Narasimhan and violin maestro and guru Karnataka Kalashree Vid. H.K. Narasimhamurthy, **10.15 am;** Classical vocal concert by eminent vocalist Vid. K.S. Vishnudev Namboodiri, accompanied by Vid. H.N. Bhaskar on violin, Vid. K.U. Jayachandra Rao on mridanga and Vid. G.S. Ramanujam on ghata, followed by aarti and prasada, Sri Prasanna Parvathi Kalyana Mantapa, V.V. Mohalla, **10.30 am.**
- **Kumar Performing Arts Centre (KPAC), Mysuru:** 69th International Nirantara Kalemane Festival, conferring of 'Kalemane Kalashree Lifetime Achievement Award' on dance guru Prof. Sikkil Vasanthakumari, Artistic Director of Nalanatya Manjari Trust, Chennai, Tamil Nadu; 'Kalemane Kalashree Award' on Guru Sanjee Pirantampan, Artistic Director of Natya Kala Manjari, Toronto, Canada; Journalist Amshi Prasanna Kumar chief guest; Lec-Dem by music scholar Madurai R. Shankar Prasad, accompanied by Vid. G.T. Swamy on mridanga and Vid. Rupanagudi Ratna Teja on violin, Kalemane Sabhaangana, Hebbal 2nd Stage, **10 am.**
- **Mysore Literary Association:** Mysuru Literary Fest, Eminent Educationist Dr. Gururaj Karajagi inaugurates, former VC of Rajiv Gandhi University Prof. K.C. Belliappa presides, Maharaja's College Centenary Hall, **10 am.**
- **Avadhoota Datta Peetham:** Mahashivarathri 2026, Hasyotsava (Nage Utsava) Standup Comedy featuring M.S. Narasimha Murthy, Prof. Krishnegowda, Mimikri Dayanand, Pranesh, Mimikri Gopi, Basavaraj Mahamuni and Narasimha Joshi, **10 am;** 4k Projection Mapping on 45-ft tall Karya Siddhi Hanuman statue, Sri Ganapathy Sachchidananda (SGS) Ashram, Dattanagar, Nanjangud Road, **(3 Shows) 7.10 pm, 7.40 pm and 8.10 pm.**
- **Alumni Association, Sarada Vilas College:** Samagama-2026, former KSOU VC Prof. K.S. Rangappa chief guest, College Development Council Director Prof. Dr. K. Mantelingu and SVEI President Dr. B.M. Subraya special invitees, Sarada Vilas College Principal Dr. M. Devika presides, Centenary Hall, Sarada Vilas College, **10.30 am.**
- **Karnataka Muktaka Sahitya Academy Trust:** 24th Anniversary celebrations, former Chairman of Karnataka Border Area Development Authority Dr. C. Somashekar inaugurates, former VC of Karnataka Samskrit University Dr. Padma Shekar releases the books 'Ratnakandana Kagga' (Kiran Sidlehalli), 'Prashne Ondu: Uttara Halavu' (S. Ramprasad) and 'Abhaya Varadana Muktaka Guchchagalu' (C.H. Gopala Bhat); Karnataka Muktaka Sahitya Academy President Dr. H.V. Nagaraja Rao presides, **10.30 am;** Award presentation and felicitation ceremony, KSOU VC Prof. Sharanappa V. Halse inaugurates, conferring of Dr. DVG Muktaka Sahitya Award on C.H. Gopala Bhat (Kasaragod, Kerala), Rotary Mysore West auditorium, Kuvempunagar, **4 pm.**
- **Ganabharathi:** Anniversary celebrations of Ganabharathi Music and Dance School, Ganabharathi, Kuvempunagar, **9.30 am.**
- **Indian Dastkaar Handloom & Handicraft Haat:** Exclusive exhibition on Handlooms, Handicrafts & Lifestyle products, Scouts & Guides Ground, behind Old DC's Office, **10.30 am to 9.30 pm.**
- **Akhila Bharata Veerashaiva Lingayat Mahasabha, Mysuru District Women's Unit:** Divisional-level Bhajan Competition for women of Mysuru, Mandya and Chamarajanagar, Sri Chandrashekar Swamiji of Sri Gurumalleshwara Dasoha Mutt, Hullinabeedi, Mysuru, graces the occasion; Inauguration by writer & retd. Professor Dr. S.P. Umadevi and Marimallappa's PU College Academic Officer Mangala Muddumadappa; Akhila Bharata Veerashaiva Lingayat Mahasabha Mysuru District Unit President H.V. Basavaraju and Akhila Bharata Veerashaiva Lingayat Mahasabha Mysuru District Women's Unit President Dhanya Satyendramurthy will be present, JSS Law College, Kuvempunagar, **11 am.**
- **District Administration, Kannada & Culture Department and Mysuru City Corporation (MCC):** Sri Santa Sevalal Jayanti celebrations, District Minister Dr. H.C. Mahadevappa inaugurates, MLA K. Harishgowda presides, Shivamogga's Thirthahalli Government High School HM T. Ganesh delivers lecture, Mini Theatre, Kalamandira premises, **11.30 am.**
- **Mysuru Cinema Society:** Paridrishya 2026, a celebration of cinema, cultural and conversation, Day-3 - The Critique (Analysis & Awards), **1 pm to 5 pm;** Award Ceremony, Maharaja's College Grounds, **5.30 pm.**
- **Prakash Performing Arts Trust (PPAT), Mysuru:** 'Dhwani' music concert in memory of late Vidwan A.V. Prakash, Karnatak classical flute recital by the students, Anmay S. Gowda and Shreenidhi Shiruru, accompanied by Bhuvan Ravishankar on mridanga and Prerana Praveen on violin, #33, Prakasha Nilaya, Surya Layout, Behind Naidu Stores, Srirampura 2nd Stage, **6 pm.**
- **Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya:** Valedictory ceremony of 90th anniversary & Mahashivarathri celebrations, Divya Darshana of replica of Gujarat's Sri Somnath Temple; Conferring of 'Ishwariya Award' on Bangalore Rural MP Dr. C.N. Manjunath; Brahma Kumaris Mysuru Sub-Zone Chief Co-ordinator Rajyogini BK Dr. Lakshmiji graces the occasion; Former University of Mysore VC Prof. K.S. Rangappa, former Gulbarga University VC Prof. E.T. Puttaiah, Senior Advocate O. Sham Bhat, retired District Judge C.G. Hungund guests of honour, **6.30 pm;** Cultural Programme - Devotional Songs by Ashwini Chandru, Mysuru, ground opp. BVB Mysuru Kendra, Vijayanagar, **8 pm to 9 pm.**
- **Niranthara Foundation, Mysuru:** Staging of late T.P. Kailasam's famous play 'Huttadalli Hutta' (64th show) by Antharanga Amateur Theatre Group, directed by Archana Shyam, Mini Theatre, Kalamandira premises, **7.15 pm.** [Mob: 98809-14509 or 99869-11321]

II PUC exams

Top 10: ZP CEO tells Principals to set aim

Mysuru, Feb. 21 (MTY&BS)- With II PUC exams set to begin from Feb. 28, Zilla Panchayat (ZP) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) S. Ukesh Kumar has directed the Principals of Government PU Colleges in the district to strive towards securing overall results within top 10.

Chairing the meeting held at ZP Meeting Hall here on Thursday, Ukesh Kumar called for improvement in results compared to previous year results, which stood at 14th position. It must be ensured that the performance won't fall below that of the previous year's and the teachers should discharge their duties without any lacunae. With exams fast approaching, the teachers should at least aim for top 5, which may eventually end up at least within top 10.

Saying that the Government colleges should not slip below overall 40% results, he warned that the style of functioning of poor performing colleges will be brought to the notice of the Govt.

"Mysuru is a popular hub of academics and is also the home town of Chief Minister, with emphasis laid on providing the required basic infrastructural facilities along with adequate grants for colleges. Accordingly, the results must be secured in the exams," he pointed out.

Preparatory exams

Referring to the poor score of students in preparatory exams conducted for English, Economics and Political Science, at the colleges in Karya and Dasnur villages in Nanjangud and Gandhanahalli in K.R. Nagar, he sought explanation from the Principals of respective colleges.

Government College at Devanur has 30 students, which has shown remarkable progress in results of preparatory exams, Ukesh Kumar said and advised others to take a cue.

DDPU explains

DDPU Nagamma apprised the ZP CEO about measures taken for improving results this year. The Principals and Lecturers are creating awareness among students, who have scored below 20 marks in preparatory exams. Some of the Lecturers are also willing to adopt a few students, to hone their skills to achieve better results. The Lecturers are also taking special classes at hostels too, with the only aim to score better marks.

Elected to Ch'nagar Journalists Housing Co-operative Society

Chamarajanagar, Feb. 21- M.E. Manjunath was elected as President and Veerabhadrappa as Vice-President of Chamarajanagar Taluk Journalists Housing Co-operative Society in the elections held here yesterday.

The two were declared elected unopposed as they were the only ones who filed nomination papers. Padmanabha was the Returning Officer.

Speaking on the occasion, Chamarajanagar District Journalists Association President Siddalingaswamy said that the Assn. would extend full co-operation to the Society. He appealed the Society office-bearers to make honest efforts for allotment of sites to Journalists.

Society Directors R.M. Lingappa, C. Mahendra, Veerabhadra Nayak, Kagalawadi Basavanna, R. Rajendra, Y.K. Mole Basavaraju, Hosur Raju, Ramasamudra Babu and M.G. Srikanth were present.

WORD OF THE DAY

Syllogism

Pronunciation: SIL-uh-jiz-um (noun)
Meaning: Syllogism refers to a formal argument in logic that is formed by two statements and a conclusion which must be true if the two statements are true.
Origin: For those trained in formal argument, the syllogism is a classical form of deduction, specifically an argument consisting of a major and a minor premise and a conclusion. One example is the inference that "kindness is praiseworthy" from the premises "every virtue is praiseworthy" and "kindness is a virtue." Syllogism came to English through Anglo-French from the Latin noun syllogismus, which in turn can be traced back to the Greek verb syllogizesthai, which combines logizesthai (meaning "to calculate," and coming from logos, meaning "word" or "reckoning") with syl-, which comes from syn-, meaning "with" or "together."
Example: "The Dallas area was a hotbed of competitive debate and at first, the oratorical polish of [Rebecca F.] Kuang's teammates was intimidating. She spent months being coached on the art of syllogism, a kind of logical argument in which one deduces a conclusion from a set of premises. 'The idea that you could take something that seemed up to personal charisma or rhetorical choice and map it to this very rigid, argumentative structure was mind-blowing,' she said." —Hua Hsu, The New Yorker, 25 Aug. 2025.

THE ODD WORD

Defluvium

Falling of hair.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

On the Boil

Meaning: The phrase 'On the Boil' means that if a situation or feeling is on the boil, it is very strong or active.
Origin: 'Boil' comes from the Old French word 'bolir', which originated in the Latin word 'bullire'. Both words means literally to gush, seethe, bubble, or swell in the way water does when it boils. The origin of the phrase 'On the Boil' comes from the 1640s, when the term 'boil' was first associated with agitated feelings."
Example: "The corruption scandal is being kept on the boil by a series of new revelations."

QUOTE BOX

Do exactly what you would do if you felt most secure. **—Meister Eckhart**

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

META META
META META

Answer: Metaphor

SUDOKU

		4			7			
9				2	5			
					8	3	9	
	9	2					5	8
	5						1	
7	3					2	6	
	7	9	2					
			6	9				1
			7			6		

Answer to previous puzzle

8	9	5	7	3	2	6	1	4
4	6	7	1	8	9	2	3	5
2	1	3	5	6	4	7	9	8
1	2	6	3	5	7	4	8	9
3	5	9	8	4	6	1	2	7
7	4	8	9	2	1	3	5	6
5	7	1	6	9	3	8	4	2
9	3	2	4	7	8	5	6	1
6	8	4	2	1	5	9	7	3

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CROSS WORD

ACROSS:

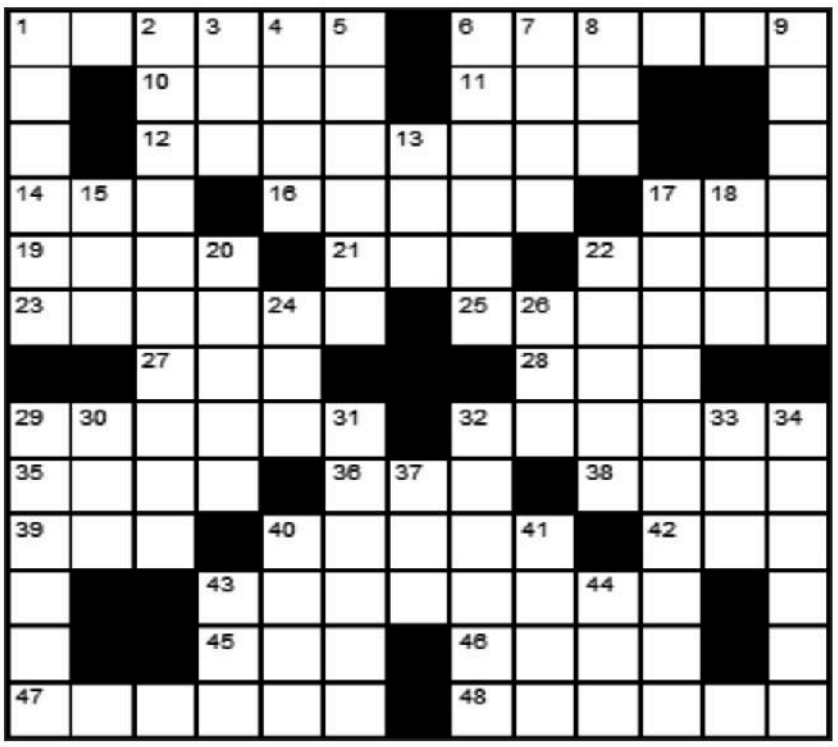
1 South American ruminants
6 British comic role (2,4)
10 Pithy material used in making a hat?
11 Over in verse
12 Beauty queen and actress ___ Sen
14 ____ chi: Chinese exercises
16 Had a row?
17 Edison initials
19 The ___ of Ancient Mariner : S. T. Coleridge's epic poem?
21 Alphabet trio
22 Overlay with wood
23 Puzzle
25 Annually
27 Cleaning agent
28 Eng. Press. Ratio
29 ___ ___ nobis : pray for us, in Latin? (3,3)
32 Suffer death or ruin
35 SI unit of power
36 ___ Paar: 1954 Guru Dutt movie
38 Dubious
39 French word for "born"
40 Mistake, inaccuracy or wrongdoing
42 An affirmative answer
43 Scrawls on walls
45 A wheeled vehicle drawn by horses
46 Sacred image
47 Calm and unruffled
48 Cliff-top spot on Sydney coastline (3,3)

THURSDAY'S ANSWER

A	I	T	S		K	O	I		A	S	T	I
V	S	O	P		I	R	S		A	W	E	D
O	T	R	A		O	B	L	I	G	A	T	O
W	O	E		A	S	S	A	M		B	E	L
		A	M	O	K		N	A	G			
E	N	D	U	P		A	D	M	I	R	A	L
M	O	O	N		P	A	S		D	E	S	I
U	N	R	A	V	E	L		E	D	D	I	E
			F	I	R		M	A	Y	I		
A	L	I		A	D	I	E	U		R	A	E
B	A	S	I	L	I	C	A		B	E	T	A
L	V	I	I		E	E	L		A	C	T	S
Y	E	T	I		M	S	S		S	T	A	Y

DOWN

1 Sheen or gloss
2 Absorb, incorporate or merge
3 Memorandum of Understanding
4 Too, in addition
5 Great desert
6 Half; one of two approximately equal parts
7 "Retired" in short ?
8 In short, a woman's upper undergarment
9 That is to say; to wit
13 Mr. & ___ : Sir and his lady?
15 Scots "own"
17 Frightening
18 Be unwell
20 Cleopatra's country
22 Italian isle
24 "Sea", in French
26 Shoe box letters
29 Proprietors
30 Author Foley
31 Connected with rowing - "Age or a" anagram?
32 What you make on a good transaction?
33 Seller-Furnished Equip.
34 An aromatic herb referred to in the Bible
37 Canine sound
40 Ireland for the poet?
41 Financially very well off
43 Grad. Rec. Exam.
44 Water tester



CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

MQHB OU RNYQD, YWRYDM

VNYC LST NOFY Q HQVLYF.

TODAY'S CLUE: T EQUALS U

Thursday's Cryptoquip: I started out with nothing. I still have most of it.

SINGLE SCREEN THEATRES

Sangam Theatre **Ph: 2520494**
Second Case of Seetharam (K) - 2; *Alpha: Men Love Vengeance (K)* - 2

Padma Theatre **Ph: 2521923**
Bharathi Teacher (K) - 1 Show; *Ghilli (Ta)* - 3 Shows

Woodlands Theatre **Ph: 2422871**
Sarala Subbarao (K) - 4 Shows

Mahadeshwara Theatre **Mob: 99008-20093**
45 (K) - 4 Shows

Gayathri Theatre **Ph: 2443568**
Sarala Subbarao (K) - 4 Shows

Prabha Theatre **Mob: 98454-14691**
Dharmista (K) - 4 Shows

Lido Theatre **Ph: 2420885**
Landlord (K) - 4 Shows

Rajkamal Theatre **Ph: 2423554**
Bagavathi (Ta) - 4 Shows

Balaji Theatre **Mob: 98863-25207**
O' Romeo 3 (H) - 3 Shows

MOVIES AT DRC CINEMAS Ph: 4240422 4241800

Goat (E-3D)	(S-1)	12.20 pm, 2.35 pm, 4.50 pm
Shatak: Sangh Ke 100 Varsh (H)	(S-1)	7.15 pm
Do Deewane Seher Mein (H)	(S-1)	9.45 pm; (S-2) 10.05 am
O Romeo (H)	(S-2)	12.55 pm
February 30 (K)	(S-2)	4.40 pm
Assi (H)	(S-2)	7.15 pm, 10.05 pm
Second Case of Seetharam (K)	(S-3)	10.35 am, 7.15 pm
Alpha: Men Love Vengeance (K)	(S-3)	1.10 pm
Maarnami (K)	(S-3)	4.05 pm
Hey Balwanth (Te)	(S-3)	9.55 pm
Sarala Subbarao (K)	(S-4)	10.15 am, 4.10 pm
Suri Anna (K)	(S-4)	1.15 pm
Rakkasapuradol (K)	(S-4)	7.05 pm, 9.45 pm

MOVIES AT MYSURU VISION CINEMAS Ph: 2973519

Maarnami (K)	:	1.25 pm
Rakkasapuradol (K)	:	1.30 pm
		7.45 pm
Sarala Subbarao (K)	:	1.45 pm, 4.30 pm
		7.30 pm
Alpha Men Love Vengeance (K)	:	4.30 pm
		7.30 pm
February 30 (K)	:	4.45 pm

MOVIES AT NEXUS MALL

Assi (H)	:	10.25 am, 4.30 pm, 10.20 pm
O' Romeo (H)	:	10.55 am, 2.30 pm, 6.05 pm, 9.40 pm
Alpha: Men Love Vengeance (K)	:	11 am, 7.20 pm
Sarala Subbarao (K)	:	11.25 am, 7.25 pm
Goat (E-3D)	:	11.50 am, 7.15 pm
Shatak: Sangh Ke 100 Varsh (H)	:	11.50 am, 2.20 pm, 4.50 pm, 7.20 pm
Maarnami (K)	:	1.15 pm
Suri Anna (K)	:	2 pm
Zootopia 2 (E-3D)	:	2.05 pm
Rakkasapuradol (K)	:	2.10 pm, 9.50 pm
Weapons (E-2D)	:	4.30 pm
February 30 (K)	:	4.50 pm
Second Case of Seetharam (K)	:	4.50 pm, 10.05 pm
Tu Yaa Main (H)	:	7.05 pm
Wuthering Heights (E)	:	9.30 pm
JC: The University (K)	:	10.10 pm

MOVIES AT GARUDA MALL

Shatak: Sangh Ke 100 Varsh (H)	:	11.25 am, 4.30 pm, 6.10 pm
Sarala Subbarao (K)	:	12.05 pm, 4.05 pm, 9.30 pm
Alpha: Men Love Vengeance (K)	:	1 pm, 4.15 pm, 9.50 pm
Rakkasapuradol (K)	:	1.25 pm, 6.50 pm
Second Case of Seetharam (K)	:	1.55 pm, 7.15 pm
Maamami (K)	:	2.55 pm, 9 pm
Amruthaanjan (K)	:	7 pm
O' Romeo (H)	:	10.10 pm

Science Week at Teresian College

Mysuru, Feb. 21- Teresian College, Mysuru, inaugurated its Science Week celebrations with the theme 'Anviksha-2026' highlighting curiosity, inquiry and innovation in science at the College premises in Siddarthanagar this morning.

Rev. Dr. Sr. Rohini, who officially unveiled the name 'Anviksha-2026,' emphasised the importance of nurturing scientific temper, creativity and innovative thinking among students.

Dr. C. Jeyanthi, Dean of Science and Vivek Charles, IQAC Coordinator, along with faculty members and students, were present on the occasion.

As part of the inauguration, faculty and students participated in a rally spreading awareness with the message "Reduce Plastic, Restore Nature," reinforcing the institution's commitment to environmental responsibility and sustainable living.

The inauguration of 'Anviksha-2026' marked the beginning of a vibrant week-long celebration of science, featuring a series of innovative competitions and academic programmes aimed at fostering scientific curiosity, creativity and a spirit of inquiry among students.

Jo-Fest 2026 at St. Joseph's FGC

Mysuru, Feb. 21 (KS) - Jo-Fest 2026, the College Fest of St. Joseph's First Grade College (FGC), a unit of the Mysore Diocesan Educational Society (MDES), was inaugurated at the College premises in Jayalakshmipuram here recently by Dr. Mantelingu, Director, CDC, University of Mysore.

He stressed on the importance of discipline and practice in our daily life. Citing the example of Michael Phelps and Michael Jordon, who had won the highest number of medals in Olympics, he highlighted the significance of routines in being the building blocks of success.

He stated that genius is not in talent, but the secret of success lies in the formation of habits, pointing out that life can be changed by changing routines and habits. He also stressed on the role of clear, specific and achievable goals in one's life, reiterating on being disciplined and developing a positive attitude.

Rev. Fr. Edward William Saldanha, MDES Secretary, said the word 'Fest' is derived from German language, adding that Kannadigas refer to it as Jathra, which was the only source of entertainment and means of communication in the past.

Seby Mavely, CEO of Training and Development at MDES and Dr. H.N. Chandrashekara, Principal, were present.

MOVIES AT MALL OF MYSORE

O' Romeo (H)	:	11.55 am, 6.15 pm
Shatak: Sangh Ke 100 Varsh (H)	:	1 pm
Alpha: Men Love Vengeance (K)	:	1.30 pm, 7.10 pm
Second Case of Seetharam (K)	:	2 pm, 7.25 pm
Sarala Subbarao (K)	:	3.30 pm, 9.50 pm
Maarnami (K)	:	4 pm, 10 pm
Rakkasapuradol (K)	:	4.30 pm, 10.10 pm
Assi (H)	:	4.35 pm, 10 pm
Hey Balwanth (Te)	:	7.10 pm

MOVIES AT CENTRO MALL

Second Case of Seetharam (K)	:	11.15 am, 4.45 pm, 10 pm
Sarala Subbarao (K)	:	11.25 am, 2 pm, 7.35 pm
O' Romeo (H)	:	11.40 am, 5.55 pm
		9:30 pm
Rakkasapuradol (K)	:	11.45 am, 3.10 pm
		7.20 pm, 10 pm
Doddanna Puttanna (K)	:	2.25 pm
February 30 (K)	:	4.25 pm
Suri Anna (K)	:	4.45 pm
Maggi Pusthaka (K)	:	6.40 pm
Hey Balwanth (Te)	:	10.20 pm

NOTE: Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there is no minimum audience of 15.

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4. **Shift in Charge / Supervisor** - Post 2 - Minimum Experience 5 to 6 years in Production Department in Manufacturing Industry.
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Uttara Kriya Bhushanti Invitation

Sri. M.B. Vijayakumar

D.O.D: 12.02.2026

The Uttara Kriya will be performed on Sunday 22.02.2026, 11AM at our residence # 399, Hebbal, Mysore-570016

Who have not received the invite may kindly treat this as a personal invitation to pray for the departed soul.

In grief: K. Vanaja, Ravikiran, Vidyashree, Ranjita, Sudarshan, Grandchildren & Family Members